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## THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

DDI 7346-82  
13 September 1982

National Intelligence Council

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: [ ] A/NIO/NESA

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SUBJECT: US Exercises, Gulf of Sidra

1. Admiral Jonathan Howe, Director of Political/Military Affairs at State, chaired a Libyan working group meeting on 8 September to hear the JCS brief on its "stair step" plan for resumption of US naval exercises in the Gulf of Sidra. At a similar meeting on 19 August, the JCS declined to present such a briefing, asserting that the plan had not yet been approved by the Joint Chiefs. The plan, now approved by the JCS, still has not received Secretary Weinberger's signature, but is likely to within the next few days.

2. The briefing reiterated the various stages of the plan, wherein US naval exercises in the Gulf will escalate in step fashion from limited air operations north of Libyan claimed territorial waters to more extensive air and naval activity within Libya's claimed waters. The plan culminates in an open ocean missile exercise, probably in January 1983. The various steps are associated with increasing risk of a hostile Libyan reaction.

3. The discussion that ensued focused on ensuring that DOD recognize the continuing need for close interagency supervision of its implementation of the various steps of the plan. State Department in particular wanted to ensure that regional events are carefully considered within the interagency forum as planned exercises move toward go/no go decisions.

4. Attendees reiterated also the need for a political decision within the NSC before the decision is made to proceed with the sixth step of the plan, i.e. when exercise activity drops below the 32°42' line that Libya claims as its territorial limit. Although DOD anticipates a Libyan military reaction to any US exercise it detects in the Gulf of Sidra, the likelihood of a hostile reaction increases greatly once the claimed territorial limit is breached.

5. The interagency working group will continue to monitor closely plans to exercise in the Gulf of Sidra. It is likely that an NSC meeting

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will be called prior to proceeding with exercises that traverse Libya's claimed territorial limit. This is not likely to occur before November 1982 at the earliest.



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